

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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OLD COSMOPOLITANS

by Joe Gantner

While I know that the ROUND-UP Magazine is written for the collector of old Dime Novels, and not for such high-brow magazines as the COSMOPOLITAN Magazine, I am sending this article in, with the hope that it will strike a resounding chord in some Happy-Hour Member. This article was originally slanted for the Cosmopolitan, so please pardon my style if it seems over enthusiastic. The Old 5c Weeklies delighted my imagination in my grade school days, and the high-brow magazines like Cosmopolitan, Red Book, etc. inflamed my fancy in my youth. You might say that I graduated from Nick Carter to Jack London as I show in this little essay. May this article bring back again memories of some happy hours of your young manhood.

It is peculiar how life repeats itself. The things we throw away today, we will want tomorrow. We never know when we will want something that has been very interesting in our past life, and great honor should be given to the collector, for it is by his foresight, that we can again live the joyous past. Oh how I wished at times that I had saved my old Cosmopolitans! How interesting it would be if we had every issue of the Cosmopolitan Magazine, in bound volumes on a shelf? What a wonderful, illustrated encyclopedia we would have? and if one volume was devoted to the Index alone, how many references, and cross references, we could find? I do not believe that there is any subject, in we will say, that Great Encyclopedia

Britannica, that is not also covered and richly illustrated by the special feature writers in Old Cosmopolitans. The word Cosmopolitan, means a Citizen of the World, and like a well travelled citizen of the world visiting you, how well it talks?

Take any course of study you may choose to follow, and see the many, many different articles in Old Cosmopolitans there is on the subject. Let's say you are interested in Art? There must be at least several hundred articles illustrated on Art, some in colors and some about Portraiture, and some about the Landscape. Also your imaginative and dreaming faculty, can be greatly aroused on art, by such great fiction writers as Robert W. Chambers, etc. Take Gold Mining, for instance, you can find a world of articles, and look at the fiction of the Great Golden Northwest, Jack London, Oliver Curwood, Rex Beach, etc. It would indeed be an education in itself to own and read a set of Old Cosmopolitans.

It's to our loss, if we do not read the Cosmopolitan Mag. and to follow the trend of the times. Every war, every depression, has been predicted years ahead of the time, in the pages of Old Cosmopolitans. In the year of 1906, I was only a boy of fourteen years old. At that time we were taught to believe there would never be another war, and in the January 1906 issue of the Cosmopolitan, there appeared an article by Charles Edward Russell, titled; Germanizing the World. It showed then how Germany believed themselves to be the Super-duper race, and Deutschland Uber Alles. Since that time, I have seen two wars

with Germany, and we always prove to Germany that they are wrong. It would not surprise me that the Cosmopolitan Magazine predicted the attack on Pearl Harbor, and World War No. 2, years ago.

An article or story, first of all must be interesting, if it is to appear in the pages of the Cosmopolitan. It is this magazine's job, to not only please a few people, but to please its millions of subscribers, who delightfully look for this debonair and wealthy Citizen of the World, every month. Although more great name authors, have appeared in Cosmopolitan than any other magazine, its first question of any author is: "Is it Interesting?" The unknown author can make his story or article to appear in the Cosmopolitan, providing he can make his article more interesting than the great name author. The Cosmopolitan pays its authors the highest rates of any magazine, and it is the ambition of all authors to appear in the Cosmopolitan. The author does not select the Cosmopolitan, but Cosmopolitan selects the author, for it is always on the lookout for new talent.

My first introduction to Cosmopolitan, odd to say, was through reading the American Tobacco Co. Premium Catalogue. My Dad gave me all of his Granger Twist tobacco tags, and with 100 of these I got a year's subscription to Cosmopolitan. From the years 1906 to 1909, I monthly received the Cosmopolitan, and this was the one great magazine I read from cover to cover. I was only a young lad at that time, and believe me that is the time in one's life when we get the most out of our reading. About this time of my life, I had been reading a lot of old five cent weeklies, of the Nick Carter, and Liberty Boys type, and when I received the neat and elegant Cosmopolitan in the mail I thought I was indeed being brought up in the highest society of thought. I'll never forget the thrill I received every month when I saw the nicely wrapped Cosmopolitan in my mail-box in the Post Office.

Jack London: What an interesting and sensational author he was in those days? How his articles and stories brightened and pepped up those Old Cosmopolitans? Somehow, his very personality stirred up other authors

to write some of the best stories and articles that the Cosmopolitan has ever printed. Shall I ever forget how disappointed I was, when after the first article about Jack London's Voyage of the Snark no more appeared. How beautiful and thrilling those blue toned photographs of Jack London standing on the skeleton of the 40 foot Snark looked in the only article Jack wrote about the Snark in the Cosmopolitan. Although the Snark Stories did not materialize at this time, Cosmopolitan, so as not to disappoint us, printed some wonderful Tramp Stories by Jack London.

It seems to me that nearly the same authors, appeared monthly in the Old Cosmopolitans. We would have been greatly disappointed if we could not have found stories by the following writers: The wharf stories of W. W. Jacobs, the Jew stories of Bruno Lessing, The Get-Rich-Quick-Wallington stories, by George Randolph Chester, The Smoke Bellew, and other stories of Jack London. Fables in Slang, by George Ade. The Craig Kennedy detective stories of Arthur B. Reeves. The Penrod stories of Booth Tarkington. The weird stories of Ambrose Bierce. The Emma M. Chesney stories of Edna Ferber, the Irvin Cobb stories and many others that would take up too much space to mention. Death has silenced the work of most of these great writers and only a few of these Great Name Authors are still writing for Cosmopolitan.

The best artists and illustrators drew their pictures for Cosmopolitan. Remember the pretty girl paintings that always embellished the covers of old Cosmopolitans, by Harrison Fisher. Howard Chandler Christy was also another great illustrator who often appeared in the pages of Cosmopolitan. George Ade's Slang Stories were always illustrated by that great cartoonist John T. McCutcheon. Will Owens illustrated the W. W. Jacobs stories. Albert Bloch, illustrated the Bruno Lessing Stories. Who will forget the several pages of colored pictures that always appeared in Cosmopolitan by Emilie Benson Knipe. These are just a few of the Great Names that made the Cosmopolitan the illustrious magazine it is today. Every generation gave its best writers and artists to Cosmopolitan. Long may their names

and work be remembered.

What a delight it is to read the advertisements in the *Cosmopolitan Magazine*. How well worded and beautifully illustrated they always appeared. It's an education in itself to follow the advertisements in *Cosmopolitan*. Take any subject like radio, automobile, cameras, soups, toilet articles, gas, cigars, wines and whiskeys, etc., and by reading the ads you will have all the necessary knowledge you will need to have of any product. I believe that Americans receive a liberal education just from reading the ads in the magazines. Take one firm, for instance, The Eastman Kodak Co. If they would put all of their different *Cosmopolitan* ads in one volume what a history of photography it would disclose, from its most primitive Kodak, that appeared in the early *Cosmopolitans*, to the beautiful color photography ad that appeared in the Sept. 1943 issue of *Cosmopolitan*.

Those Christmas Editions of the *Cosmopolitans*, how they used to thrill me when I received them through the mail. I used to watch for this *Cosmopolitan* like I used to watch for the Ringling Bros. Circus Train. Even to this day I find the best way to celebrate Christmas Day, after going to Church, is to get the *Cosmopolitan*, and a couple of other magazines, and to go into my quiet room and try to read the magazines from cover to cover. Let the wind roar, and the snow fall, I am happy and comfortable by my fire reading the *Cosmopolitan*. Just think what a wonderful illustrated book you buy, for only 35c, when you buy the *Cosmopolitan*. Could you get that same value in buying one of the latest copyright \$2.00 novel? We do not appreciate the value of our great magazines.

It is interesting to watch the development of the *Cosmopolitan Magazine*. It has changed its format many times, it first started out about 6x9 size, then after World War No. I for a few years, it was the large size of about 12x15, and called Hearst International, combined with *Cosmopolitan*. Today it is 8½x11½, and it is truly a most beautiful magazine. Step by step it has developed a better magazine every year. Its present authors and artists carry on the satisfying precedent of its past writers and illustrators,

making *Cosmopolitan* an indeed the leader in its field. It would be a gloomy old world if we could not see the *Cosmopolitan* every month on the newsstands. It is great to grow old with the *Cosmopolitan*. Our old favorites the 5c WEEKLIES are no more, but the *Cosmopolitan* still lives.

REMINISCENCES IN NOVELANIA PAST AND PRESENT

by W. M. Burns

Part 2

As a youthful reader who started to read at a very early age, I was a bit slow in meeting "Jack Harkaway." In fact, had reached the age of 14 or 15, before I even ever heard of the imperishable "Jack." At that time I had about 30 or more of those "Old Sleuth Special Detective Series." You all know what these were. Just two of the "Old Sleuths Own Series," bound together as one and sold for 25c per copy.

A schoolmate requested the loan of a few, and I obliged him with the loan of a half dozen or more. A few days later he returned them saying "How many of these have you? My big brother has the first 25 of The Harkaway Library and will trade them to you for 25 of the Old Sleuth Special Detective Series, if you have that many."

I replied, "I never heard of the Harkaway Library, and will your brother loan me a few to read before I decide." He replied that his brother would, so with a loan of another half dozen or so "Old Sleuths" under our arms we tramped nearly two miles to my schoolmates home. And when I left there I had the first 10 of the Harkaway Library under my arm.

This was exactly 40 or 41 years ago this summer. But that night and the following day will always remain in my memory. I sure burned the midnight oil that night. (Literally true as we had kerosene lamps instead of electric lights out in the country in those days.) It was long into the morning before I slept that night. I finished reading "Jack Harkaways Schooldays," and got well along into "Jack Harkaways Friends" before I slept that night. And was I pleased. I had found a new hero to read about.

I can recall the next day as clearly as yesterday. It was raining. Not hard but a constant drizzle. Along about

noon it stopped raining and I gathered all my "Old Sleuths Specials" into a crocus bag and started for my school-mates home to conclude that trade. But disappointment was my reward. "Big Brother" was not at home.

However a few days later the trade went through and I was the happy owner of the first 25 issues of the Larkaway Library and had thrown in gratis all my extra "Old Sleuths Specials."

Well, I sure did enjoy reading those 25 "Harkaways," But I cannot recall what I ever did with them.

Living so far out in the country at that time I never did get the remaining nine (9) issues as they appeared.

And it was years later, many years in fact, before I had the pleasure of reading future Harkaway Tales.

About 4-5 years ago a very good collector friend loaned me to read, several volumes from his complete file of Leslie's Boys and Girls Weekly.

I then discovered what a good job Heming did in his so-called American Series.

As in Leslie's Boys and Girls Weekly, I read the further conclusions of "Harkaways Adventures in New York" and a bit of his "Adventures Out West Among the Indians." But never until recently did I read his concluding adventures. I recently got in a small bunch of Street and Smiths "Round the World Library" and among them were "Jack Harkaway Among the Indians," "Jack Harkaway In the Black Hills," "Jack Harkaway in the Tolls," "Jack Harkaway's Secret of Wealth," "Jack Harkaway Missing," and "Jack Harkaway and the Sacred Serpent." Six of the seven concluding tales of the "Harkaway" series, and all new tales to me.

So really way past middle age, I am once more a boy in reading these fine tales of one of my boyhood heroes.

MY ADVENTURE INTO BOOK COLLECTING

by W. B. Poage

As a boy I was a great reader. My Father was a student and also a great reader so when in the house it had to be quiet. He encouraged us to read and his big gift at Christmas time was always books and giving them to us throughout the year. I think I had

a fine library, some five or six hundred books. Finishing school, going out to work and leaving home and also taking my part in the first World War, when on getting married and settling down I discovered the fact that my once large library was only some two hundred volumes of odds and ends. About a year ago I noted that I still have some twenty-five Henty books, some dating back, in my possession since 1895. Finding a few cheap and some good in a local store I built up my list quite well but soon saw that I could not go very far locally. It was my good luck to see the name of George Flaum of St. Petersburg, Fla. in my local paper and he in turn gave me the name of Brother Cummings and then it started. Many names and especially Mr. William Burns of Rockland, Maine, who has been a great help to me. Looking in the back of an old volume that I have had since 1903 I discovered that Lippincotts had published in 1900 The Brahmins Treasure by Henty. In all these years I had not seen this and had never heard of this title before. Believe it or not one firm I wrote for the first time offered me this title, I bought and then or since they have offered me no Henty titles but many by other Authors. Being way down here in Florida in one corner of the United States I have found my wants from here to New Orleans, as far out as Los Angeles, from way up in Maine and of course I mention Philadelphia and many cities in N. Y. I have found them cheap and I have found them high, but practically all of the Round-up good Scouts indeed, nuf sed. Also I have even located some wanted titles in London, England.

Regarding Col. G. A. Henty. If any of the readers know more of this writer than I do I would appreciate very much any information or corrections. With the aid of Bro. Burns we have checked and are stopped when we name 91 titles and a few of these are duplicates. Does anyone know just how many books he did write? Of the ninety-one I have now sixty-three and a long way to go to complete, if I ever do. Of duplicates I find that A Tale of Waterloo is the same as One of the 28ths. The Brahmin's Treasure is Col. Thorndyke's Secret. I think that A Chapter of Adventure is The

Young Midshipmen. I have been offered Winning His Spurs and I expect to find this to be The Boy Knight.

Col. Henty was seventy years of age when he died in 1902. Shortly after that The American Boy was published Nita a Tomboy Soldier and they stated that this was his last story. When Blackie and Son published By Conduct and Courage they said that this was the last book published by Henty altho this was in 1905. I don't doubt that both are correct, one is the last book published and the other is the last story written. I cannot find where Nita A Tomboy Soldier was ever published in book form.

I wonder if anyone knows what story he wrote first? Brother Burns says that The Young Buglers and the Young Franc-Tieruers were among the first published in book form. I am just guessing that possibly among the first was Yarns on the Beach and Tales of Daring and Danger. These two books I have never seen. Henty fans come on give me some dope, correct me if you can.

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

Mrs. Frank Leslie's only appearance in any theatre was at the Academy of Music, November 10th, 1890 in "The Royal Leaders of Society." Tickets were 50c, 75c and \$1.00.

One of Laura Jean Libbys famous love stories appeared in music, "Lovers Once, but Strangers Now," (or Strangers Now but Lovers Once) pub. by Wm. A. Pond & Co., 25 Union Sq., New York, 1890.

John J. Corell, Room 3401, 295 Madison Ave., New York 17, N. Y. wants printers type and ornaments and such, provided they are older than 50 years.

The warehouse where Charles Bragin keeps his reproductions was broken into, and a lot of reprints were stolen by a chap that picks up waste paper. They do anything now-a-days.

If anyone comes to visit ye editor Ralph Cummings and no one seems to be around the place, wait for about an hour if you can, as Ralph goes to the Post Office, and that way will give him a chance to get back to meet you. Some one was here twice in one day last week, I was told, first time

I was up in the attic, and they were gone, before I got down stairs, and in the afternoon I went to the post office, and they were here again, so I missed them.

Alexander Baum, 620 Margret St., Pittsburgh, sent a fine letter to George Flaum who thought it worth putting in Roundup, so here it is—My Nickel Novel reading days belong to the distant past somewhere in the period between 1908 and 1913 to possibly 1915. I read all of them that I could get my hands on, and the number was quite numerous what with buying, borrowing and trading and swapping. Friday noon of each week was new novel day and I can clearly recall running up the street after school and spending the pennies I had earned and saved during the previous week to buy a new novel. My favorite novels at that time were "Liberty Boys of '76," but Pluck & Luck, Work & Win, Tip Top, Young Wild West, and Buffalo Bill were very close behind. I read Nick Carter, Old Sleuth, and some others but was not very keen about them. I have many pleasant memories of my nickel novel reading days, and a few which were otherwise between those bring on a chuckle now when I think back to them. Many a time my sins caught up with me and my father who seemed to have an uncanny sense of where to look for me, would give me all kinds of hell for wasting my time on such useless trash. It didn't seem to matter how angry he would be about it, I would always figure out ways and means to procure and read them. What Novels! What Lambastings! What Memories!

Well I finally grew up and my collection of novels disappeared. I had several younger brothers who no doubt were responsible for this, but at the time it didn't seem to matter but they would be worth considerable if someone had them today.

I stumbled onto a copy or two of Young Wild West and just had to read them and to make a long story short I enjoyed them. They seemed to release the tension after a long day at work so I picked up a few here and there, until I have a few of them which I keep under lock and key as I don't want them to disappear. I do not particularly collect them seriously, but I do enjoy having and reading

those which I have and strange to say my favorites are still the same as when I was a kid in knee britches waiting for the new ones to come in.

Remember Harold G. Lorang, that used to sell novels to us fellows every week, back in 1925 or thereabouts? He is living down in Bradenton, Fla., 1316 14th St. now. He doesn't have any more novels, and besides his eyes are bad. We old timers sure miss Harold and his novels. (George Flaum stopped at his gas station for gas, and they got to talking about old times.

L. S. Patterson says he likes to read Brave & Bold with enjoyment and pleasure, but can't say as much for Work and Win, as they are about the poorest reading of any of the Nickel Weeklies, in his humble opinion.

Charles Duprez paid ye editor a visit on Sunday April 25th. He's the same old Charlie, but his new horse teeth just don't act right!

Ell Messier says there's a fine article on Annie Oakley, Major Burke, Sitting Bull, Buffalo Bill, Ned Buntline in the Life Mag. for April 28, 1947 (a year ago).

George Flaum, 401 Second St. So., St. Petersburg, Fla. has just got out his new book, on "Federal Court Rules Annotated" complete to January 1948—Price \$10.00 and well worth it too.

Fellow advertisers, forms close the 27th of each month, so try and have your ads in here before that time. If they come in late, it makes it hard for me as well as you, so be sure to get your ads in early Pard's. Thanks.

Tommy Funderberk, 14 Hollis St., Worcester 3, Mass. wants Bantam Books Nos. 10 15 62 65 70 81 90 95 101 103 105 114 116 117 121 122 123 126 to 133 137 139. Pocket Books Nos. 27 75 163 176 198 199 273 291 299 309 317 322 323 330 363 366 374 390 397 410 416 426 433 437 441 449 450 455 457 to 461 463. What-cha got, fellers?

Member Jos. G. Bernhard has gone into the hospital for 3 months for an operation on his eyes. He sure is having some pretty tough luck.

Saturday Evening Post, May 15th issue, Roy E. Morris says is quite an article about the Pinkerton Detective Agency.

Bill Erbe of New York City, and Clyde Wakefield of Worcester, Mass. were here to see friend Cummings on May 5th.

Albert Tannenbaum says there's a fine article on Ned Buntline in the May 1947 issue of the American Mercury Mag.

Robert Conahay Jr., says it might interest all to know that he now has the complete set of Secret Service, so is now interested in getting Nick Carter Weeklies and Stories and Liberty Boys of '76.

Harry H. Benners, brother of the late Wm. J. Benners of Phila., Pa., picture and article appeared in Frank Leslie's Boys & Girls Weekly, Vol. 8, No. 199, pages 260 and 265 way back in the middle 1870's.

L. Harding now has a nice long run of Youths Companion from 1880 to end in his collection.

Is Jesse James alive?? Arti les have been sent in to me from Bill Claggett, Ernest Belique, Al Tannenbaum, and others, saying that he is alive, and is over 100 years old. Next thing is, can we believe it. His pictures of now and of old look some like him, I admit, but it's got us all to thinking, and wondering if this is just another made-up story, or not! We'll wait and see what the outcome of this will be?

George Flaum says he stopped in to see R. R. Scales Jr. of Greenville, S. C. about his fathers novels, and were told he didn't have any more and wasn't interested, so that's that. Geo. also visited with Sam Olmhausen of East Liverpool, Ohio, May 16th. George Flaum's new address is 206 Prospect St., (Wayne County), Newark, N. Y.

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Reade Library #108 122 149 174 175
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212. L. S. Patterson, 613 So. Hill St., Griffin, Ga.
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- An old member
- 100A. Samuel Olnhausen, 824 Chester Ave., East Liverpool, Ohio.

WANTED:—Copies of the Electrical Experimenter; a monthly magazine published between 1914 and 1917.

WANTED:—Any numbers of five cent weekly novels. When writing, give details of condition and the amount you want.

George Flaum

206 Prospect St., Newark, NEW YORK

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J. J. GUINON

Box 214

Little Rock, Ark.

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G. D. Nichols

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Remember the old GRIT Weekly? I have them from 1930 up, no two alike. Some fine stories in 'em too, all in nice condition. Price 10c each or all 119 of them for \$10.00 postpaid. A wonderful buy for some one.

Sparks from the Campfires, or Tales of the Old Veterans, 1899, Fine. 478 pages, cloth. Illust. Some fine colored pictures. Worth about \$4.00, my price \$2.00.

Zane Greys Western Mag. Vol. 1 Nos. 4 6 12—These are getting scarce, price 20c each or all 3 for 50c.

Frank Allen Series #4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 14 at 25c each.

Nat Ridley Series #2 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 at 25c each.

Movie Boy Series #5 6 7 8 9 at 25c each.

Log Cabin Library Pocket ed. #36—Gentleman Joes Second Scare \$2.00 rare.

Log Cabin Library, large, rare #259. Hank Starr in Nebraska \$3.00. #218 The Tramp Detective in Kentucky \$3.00. #319 Gentleman Joes Picked Pards 2.50

Sahr's Frank Reade Library #1. 50c.

Jack Lorimer Freshman, by Winn Standish 40c.

The Police Gazette Annual for 1882. No front cover, good—25c. Back page poor. Illust.

Tuftoo, the Clown, by Howard R. Gorie. 1928. 1st ed. Illust. 60c.

Oliver Optics Mag. for 1869. Bd. Vol. 5. Good 50c.

Old Cap Collier Library #29, taped, good \$1.50.

Seaside Library, tissue taped, #379 Howe as Found, 400 The Wept of Wish Ton Wish, 397 Lionel Lincoln, 415 The Ways of the Hour, 425 The Oak Openings, 431 The Monikins, all by J. Fenimore Cooper. Price 20c ea. or all for \$1

Ralph F. Cummings

Fisherville, Mass.